

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 9, 2007. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 2, 5, 7-8, and 10-11 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 1, 3-4, 6, and 9 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, while claims 2, 5, 7-8, and 10-11 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention.

Additional Amendments

The specification, particularly the Title of the Invention is being amended. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein, including page 8, lines 7-21 of the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formal Objections

The Examiner asserted that the Title of the Invention is not descriptive. Applicants believe that the Title of the Invention meets the requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112 as a whole. 35 U.S.C. §112 does not require the Title be descriptive. However, in order to advance the prosecution of this case, the Title is being amended as set forth above. Applicants do not intend to limit the scope of the present invention by this amending of the Title of the Invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for holding that claims 2, 5, 10 and 11 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 2, 5, and 10 are being amended so as to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening

claims. The base claim being allowable, claim 11 must also be allowable in the form of a dependent claim. Accordingly, allowance of claims 2, 5, 10, and 11 is respectfully solicited.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action. However, Applicants will point out that the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action.

Prior Art Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection

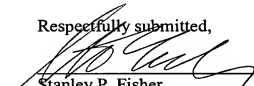
Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. 6,573,939. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Lavine et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,946,512) in view of Miyake et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,683,653). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Lavine in view of Miyake in further view of the Examiner's Official Notice. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yokoyama (U.S. Pat. 6,573,939) in view of the Examiner's Official Notice. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yokoyama in view of Tsuchida (U.S. Pat. 6,972,925). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yokoyama in view of the Examiner's Official Notice.

As mentioned above, claims 1, 3-4, 6, and 9 are being canceled, and therefore, the rejections of claims 3-4, 6, and 9 are moot. Claims 7-8 are being amended so as to depend from claim 10. The base claim being allowable, dependent claims 7-8 must be also allowable.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344

Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

July 9, 2007
SPF/JCM/YOM